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THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" Sir, I said they were being considered. I cannot tell exactly how long it will take to finalize them."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Sir, may I ask the Hon. Minister whether canning does not come under preservation of food and if so, will the Government consider the question of reviving the canning factory at Beypore? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" A separate question may be put."

Construction of a bridge at Chetwai, Ponnani taluk.

* 184 Q.—SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state : whether the Government proposed to construct a bridge at Chetwai in Ponnani taluk, Malabar district?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" The proposal is under consideration."

SRI P. K. GOPALAKRISHNAN :—" Sir, it is understood that Rs. 7 lakhs were collected by P.C.C. Societies in Ponnani taluk over and above the scheduled price of rice that was supplied, of course by mistake, and that amount has been taken over by the Government with the promise to construct the bridge. Therefore, will the Government take up the issue immediately and do the needful? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" Sir, it was thought that the bridge would cost Rs. 13½ lakhs but now as the bridge is proposed to be constructed at the estuary of the river, it is estimated that it would cost much more. Detailed report and estimates of costs have been called for. After these are received, formal sanction will be accorded for the construction of the bridge."

SRI R. KRISHNAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether there are proposals to construct any other bridge in Malabar? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" A separate question may be put."

Number of persons thrown out of employment in South Kanara on the introduction of Prohibition.

* 185 Q.—SRI S. S. KOLKEBAIL : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state how many persons have been thrown out of employment in South Kanara district after 1st October 1947 as a result of the extension of the Prohibition Act?

THE HON. SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDAR :—" Nine thousand seven hundred and eighty-nine persons were thrown out of employment in South Kanara on the introduction of Prohibition. A majority of the ex-tappers are now employed in tapping sweet toddy for the manufacture of jaggery and the rest are employed in other avocations as agricultural labourers, etc."

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SRI S. S. KOLKEBAIL :—" Sir, may I know whether the figure given by the Hon. Minister refers only to tappers, or tappers and their dependants? "

THE HON. SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDAR :—" Sir, it refers to tappers only."

SRI C. V. K. RAO :—" Sir, may I know the total number of unemployed tappers in the State? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" A separate question may be put."

SRI N. N. SUVARNA :—" May I ask the Hon. Minister, Sir, whether the jaggery societies are languishing for want of business? "

THE HON. SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDAR :—" Notice, Sir."

SRI G. LATCHANNA :—" Sir, will it not be desirable for the Government to collect statistics of persons thrown out of employment consequent on the introduction of Prohibition, not only of tappers but also others connected with the trade? "

THE HON. SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDAR :—" The matter will be considered, Sir."

SRI Y. MANJAYYA SHETTY :—" Sir, may I know whether the Government will be pleased to grant lands to the landless tappers, on a priority basis, putting them in the place of political sufferers? "

THE HON. SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDAR :—" Sir, that question must be put to another Hon. Minister."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" The Hon. Minister gave a figure, 9,000 and odd, as showing the number of people thrown out of employment due to the introduction of Prohibition. Does this figure include toddy contractors and their dependants or does it include only toddy tappers? Is it a fact that some of those who were thrown out of employment due to the introduction of Prohibition, are now employed in illicit distillation? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" I do not allow the second part of the question."

THE HON. SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDAR :—" Sir, the figure given refers only to ex-tappers."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister informed us that some of these ex-tappers are employed as agricultural labourers and that some others are employed in the manufacture of jaggery. In view of the fact that there is already a great pressure on land and forcing the ex-tappers to work in the fields as agricultural labourers will create greater difficulties, will the Government consider the question of finding alternative employment for these ex-tappers? "

THE HON. SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDAR :—" Yes, Sir. Government are trying their best to find other occupations for these ex-tappers."

SRI M. LAKSHMANASWAMY :—" Sir, may I ask the Government to furnish this House with information regarding the steps taken by the Government to provide employment for these ex-toddy tappers? "

THE HON. SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDAR :—" I want notice, Sir."

District Board, Guntur.

*187 *Q.*—SRI M. HANUMANTHA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware that the District Board, Guntur, has got debts amounting to several lakhs of rupees, and as a result the employees and contractors of the District Board are not regularly paid ; and

(*b*) if so, what steps the Government propose to take to set matters right?

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" (*a*) The present outstanding debt of the Guntur District Board is Rs. 4·5 lakhs. The employees of the District Board are being paid regularly. The outstanding balance to contractors is Rs. 2·72 lakhs.

" (*b*) The present cash balance of the District Board is Rs. 3·9 lakhs. The District Board has been asked to settle the claims of the contractors promptly."

SRI M. HANUMANTHA RAO :—" Are the Government aware, Sir, that the salaries of teachers for the month of March could be paid only in the first week of July? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" Sir, anyhow the salaries are paid. (Laughter.)

SRI VAVILALA GOPALAKRISHNAIAH :—" తమకు డబ్బు లేదనే కారణంతోటి, హిందీ విద్యాబోధనను డిస్ట్రిక్టు బోర్డు స్కూల్సులో రద్దు చేస్తారని గవర్నమెంటుకు తెలుసునా. అందుకు గవర్నమెంటు ఇప్పుడు ఏమి చేయబోతున్నారు? ".

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" A separate question may be put to the Hon. the Minister for Education."

SRI C. V. K. RAO :—" Sir, may I know the source from which this sum was borrowed and for what purpose? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" Sir, there was no loan oustanding against the District Board till the end of 1950–51. In 1951–52 an advance of Rs. 5 lakhs was sanctioned to the District Board to enable it to meet expenditure on road works in progress both under Public Works Road and village road programmes, the advance being repayable in 10 equal instalments of Rs. 50,000 each. The District Board has since paid one instalment and the balance outstanding is Rupees 4,50,000."